

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03240 131127Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12
MCT-01 /087 W

-----039783 131152Z /50

O 131100Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8266
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3240

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE
SUBJ: TONY FRANJIYAH KILLED

1. SUMMARY: IN MAJOR DAWN ATTACK JUNE 13 ON VILLAGE OF
EHDEN, A LARGE ATTACKING FORCE KILLED TONY FRANJIYAH, HIS
WIFE AND DAUGHTER AND A LARGE NUMBER OF GUARDS AND CIVILIANS.
END SUMMARY.

2. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, WE HAVE PIECED TOGETHER FOLL-
OWING ACCOUNT OF MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST NORTHERN TOWN OF EHDEN:
APPARENTLY A LARGE ALMOST CERTAINLY PHALANGIST FORCE FROM AT
LEAST TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE SHORTLY
BEFORE DAWN JUNE 13. FORMER PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANJIYAH'S
SON TONY FRANJIYAH HAS A RESIDENCE IN THE VILLAGE AND WAS
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THERE AT THE TIME. TONY, HIS WIFE AND HIS DAUGHTER WERE ALL
KILLED IN THEIR OWN HOUSE AS WELL AS THREE TO TWELVE BODY-
GUARDS, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, PLUS PERHAPS AS MANY
AS 23 OTHER PEOPLE.

4. AS OF THIS TIME (1300 LOCAL), GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET
MADE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT CABINET IS MEETING. CHIEF

OF PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL KHALIL HADDAD CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT TONY FRANJIYAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED; STORY IS ALSO CONFIRMED BY WIFE OF HAMID FRANJIYAH (A CLOSE RELATIVE), NLP DEPUTY KHAZEM KHALIL, MEMBERS OF FAMILY OF ZGHORTA DEPUTY RENE MOAWAD, AFP, SEJAAN AZZI (DIRECTOR OF PHALANGIST RADIO) AND PHALANGE LEADER KARIM PAKRADOUNI.

5. VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE SYRIAN ADF (FROM EITHER BECHARRE OR TRIPOLI) HAS NOW OCCUPIED TOWN OF EHDEN. LEBANESE ARMY MAY BE CALLED UPON TO ALSO PLAY A ROLE.

6. BACHIR GEMAYEL, AS OF 12:30 LOCAL, REPEATED TO EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON TELEPHONE RECENT PHALANGIST COMPLAINTS ABOUT FRANJIYAH'S CONTROL OF THE NORTH, IN PARTICULAR REFUSAL OF FRANJIYAH PEOPLE TO ALLOW PHALANGISTS TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF SHEKKA PHALANGE LEADER LAST WEEK.

7. BACHIR BLAMED LOCAL POPULATION AND ITS ALLEGED RESENTMENT AGAINST FRANJIYAH FAMILY DOMINATION. BUT IN RECENT DAYS BACHIR HIMSELF HAS PUBLICLY HINTED AT NEED FOR "REVOLUTION" IN THE NORTH. ALFRED MADY, BACHIR'S LIEUTENANT, SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS TO EMBOFF EVENING OF JUNE 12.

8. COMMENT: THIS IS MAJOR ESCALATION IN RECENTLY GROWING FIGHTING BETWEEN THE PHALANGE AND THE NORTHERNERS. FAR MORE LIKELY THAN "REVOLUTION", IN OUR VIEW, IN THE SHORTRUN IS
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SYSTEMATIC REVENGE BY ZGHORTIOTS AGAINST THE PHALANGE. IT MIGHT BE CONFINED TO THE NORTH, BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY QUICK REACTION INCIDENTS IN EAST BEIRUT AS WELL. DATT OBSERVED INCREASED SECURITY BY ADF IN AIN AR-RUMANNEH AND ASHRAFIEH AT MIDDAY, INCLUDING NEW ROADBLOCKS AND SEARCHES OF VEHICLES. MORE LEBANESE POLICE ARE IN EVIDENCE TOO.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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